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From: Bair, Rita
Sent: Fri 12/9/2016 2:46:43 PM
Subject: FW: Letter to Editor of ECTV Indiana from East Chicago Mayor

FYI

From: Deltoral, Miguel
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 5:21 AM
To: Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Shoven, Heather <shoven.heather@epa.gov>
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Subject: Letter to Editor of ECTV Indiana from East Chicago Mayor

Below is the letter to the editor from the EC mayor referenced by Chris in his email.

ECTV Indiana facebook page:<https://www.facebook.com/ECTVNEWS/posts/721195228030846>

Letter to the Editor:

I have been informed that as of tomorrow, the EPA will start releasing data to residents indicating elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes in Zones 2 and 3 of the USS Lead Superfund.

The City of East Chicago's water supply continues to meet all state and federal water quality standards, including the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule. The EPA implemented a never before used pilot study involving a \$5,000 per home drinking water test. While the City has not yet received any test results to date, we have been told by the EPA Water Quality Division that forty five (45) houses within the USS Lead site Zones 2 and 3 have been tested, and up to eighteen (18) of these homes had at least one water sample which exceeded the standard of 15 parts per billion for lead.

Why did the EPA use a new, unproven unaccredited test in the middle of the USS Lead Superfund crisis? Why is the EPA now releasing data which has not gone through its QAQC (Quality Assurance, Quality Control) process? But this does not surprise me, because this the same EPA which hid soil sampling results from the City of East Chicago and its residents for two years and more. Could this be because of the position the City took in outing and exposing the EPA for their lack of transparency? Is this in response to me standing up for my residents and insisting that the EPA not leave West Calumet residents in place while digging up the most lead contaminated soil in the country? I believe the original plan was unacceptable and would cause additional exposures. I offer no apologies for standing up for the residents of East Chicago. Someone had to take a stand because the EPA was not going to protect residents from additional exposure to lead.

Regardless of the reason why the City is being thrust into another storm, I will continue to take a stand to best protect my residents. While the EPA has insisted that providing a single water filter for kitchen taps is adequate to meet affected residents drinking water needs, we have all learned from Flint Michigan's experience with the EPA that this is woefully inadequate. I am advocating that Whole House Water Filters also be provided to every resident who has water quality problems related to lead service lines or lead plumbing, along with water filters at the tap. The combination of both Whole House Water Filters and Water Filters at each drinking water tap will address the two key issues: the Whole House Water Filter will address lead which may have leached from lead service lines on or near resident's property; Water Filters at each faucet within the home from which families draw drinking water will address potential exposures caused by residents' in home plumbing installed before the Safe Drinking water act banned use of lead in all new plumbing installations and repairs in June 1986. I am also asking for state and federal funding to replace all water infrastructure which may contain lead, or may violate any new Safe Drinking Water Act standard. Instead of being an obstacle to progress, I am asking the EPA to join with me in support of state and federal funding to permanently fix this infrastructure problem. This is a permanent solution which every community across the country may need to consider.

While we find ourselves at the leading edge of a potentially wide spread and long standing problem with lead in the nations water infrastructure, we would prefer to be at the leading edge of the solution. I will continue working hard to address all of our residents' concerns about lead in the soil, and now in some resident's water supply lines. We continue to update our strategic action plan and hope that we can continue to work productively with state and federal agencies who are also charged with ensuring the health and safety of our citizens.

Respectfully,

Anthony Copeland, Mayor
City of East Chicago, Indiana

Miguel A. Del Toral

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